

JOSEPH ONEBANE (1917-1987)
JOHN G. TORIAN, II (1936-1991)

JAMES E. DIAZ, SR.
TIMOTHY J. MCNAMARA
EDWARD C. ABELL, JR.
LAWRENCE L. LEWIS, III†
ROBERT M. MAHONY
DOUGLAS W. TRUXILLO*
RANDALL C. SONGY
MICHAEL G. DURAND
GREG GUIDRY*
JOSEPH L. LEMOINE, JR.††
MARK L. RILEY
GRAHAM N. SMITH*
GORDON T. WHITMAN
GARY P. KRAUS
RICHARD J. PETRE, JR.
CHARLES J. BOUDREAUX, JR.
THOMAS G. SMART
ROGER E. ISHEE**
STEVEN C. LANZA
JESSE D. LAMBERT††*
ROBERT J. DAVID, JR.
BRENT G. SONNIER***
GREG R. MIER††
FRANK H. SPRUIELL, JR.*
MARIA FABRE MANUEL
MICHAEL P. MARAIST
JOAN LABBE BOUDREAUX

ONEBANE LAW FIRM

A Professional Corporation

SUITE 600 VERSAILLES CENTRE
102 VERSAILLES BOULEVARD (70501)
POST OFFICE BOX 3507
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70502-3507

FAX: (337) 266-1232
TDD: (337) 266-1217
TELEPHONE: (337) 237-2660
www.onebane.com

May 8, 2003

APPLICATION

Honorable James H. Welsh
Commissioner of Conservation
Louisiana Office of Conservation
P. O. Box 94275
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4275

RE: Alliance Zone, Reservoir A
Mallard Bay Field
Cameron Parish, Louisiana

Dear Commissioner Welsh:

Application is hereby made on behalf of **BALLARD EXPLORATION COMPANY, INC.** for the calling of a public hearing, after thirty (30) days legal notice, to consider evidence relative to the issuance of Orders pertaining to the following matters in the Alliance Zone, Reservoir A, Mallard Bay Field, Cameron Parish, Louisiana, to-wit:

1. To establish rules and regulations and create a single drilling and production unit for the exploration for and production of gas and condensate, such unit to be designated ALLIANCE ZONE, Reservoir A, Mallard Bay Field, Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

OF COUNSEL
WILLIAM E. KELLNER
MARK B. OLIVER
CRAIG A. RYAN
GREGORY K. MOROUX
FREDERICK R. PARKER, JR.††
MICHAEL D. SKINNER

SHREVEPORT OFFICE

400 TRAVIS STREET, SUITE 1000
SHREVEPORT, LA 71101

TELEPHONE (318) 674-9770
FAX (318) 674-9775

‡LL.M. IN HEALTH LAW
†BOARD CERTIFIED TAX ATTORNEY
LL.M. IN TAXATION
††REGISTERED PATENT ATTORNEY

*ALSO ADMITTED IN TEXAS
**ALSO ADMITTED IN MISSISSIPPI
***ALSO ADMITTED IN OKLAHOMA

4. To designate Ballard Exploration Company, Inc. as the unit operator for the proposed unit;
5. To provide that any future substitute or alternate unit wells for the proposed unit be exempt from the spacing provisions of Statewide Order No. 29-E;
6. To provide that the Commissioner of Conservation should be authorized to reclassify the Alliance Zone, Reservoir A, by supplemental order without the necessity of a public hearing if the producing characteristics of the reservoir change and evidence to justify such reclassification is submitted to and accepted by the Commissioner of Conservation; and
7. To consider such other matters as may be appropriate and justified by the evidence presented at the hearing.

The Alliance Zone, Reservoir A in the Mallard Bay Field, Cameron Parish, Louisiana, is hereby defined as that gas and condensate bearing zone encountered between the depths of 12,085 feet and 12,930 feet, electrical log measurements (12,082 feet and 12,902 feet, true vertical depth), in the Arco Oil and Gas - M.O. Long - Comegys No. 1 Well, located in Section 24, Township 13 South, Range 3 West, Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The base of the zone is further defined as being encountered at a depth of 12,510 feet, electrical log measurements, in the Conoco Inc. - Mary O. Long No. 3 Well, located in Section 24, Township 13 South, Range 3 West, Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

The pre-application conference tentatively scheduled for May 15, 2003, **WILL NOT BE HELD**, as it was not requested within the delays provided for by the Rules of Procedure; therefore, no opposition to this Application at the hearing is anticipated.

Pertinent data relating to the proposed application can be obtained, **AT THE COST OF THE REQUESTING PARTY**, by contacting **W.H. Robbins & Associates, 140 Rue Beauregard, Suite 100, Lafayette, Louisiana 70508, (337)232-5004**.

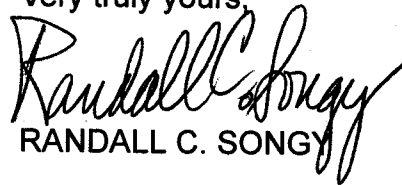
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the names and addresses of all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties.

Finally, enclosed herein is our check in the amount of \$755.00 made payable to the Office of Conservation in payment of the required hearing application fee.

Very truly yours,


RANDALL C. SONGY

RCS/elg/bad

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Richard Hudson, District Manager
Office of Conservation

All Interested Owners, Interested Parties and
Represented Parties

R 3 W

T 13 S

MARTEX
5 A S WHITE
10710

CALIFORNIA
2 ST LSE 2864

14 AMERICAN PETROFINA
6 WHITE A S
10155

10570

NORTHCOTT EXPL
1 ST LSE 2864

10404

S.L. 16842

Cornell University, et al

DANCIGER & WM HELIS
1 ANDREW S WHITE ETAL
9503

Ballard
Long-Comegys

PBHL

16843

SABLE MINERALS, INC.
1 SL 6153 LONG

BAY

ALL RA SUA
(UNDRILLED)
396 ACRES

23

25

1 LONG, M. COMEGYS

18397

CONOCO

1

LONG MARY O

Long-Comegys

MCCORMICK O&G
2 LONG MARY O
12432

ASSELL JR
COMEGYS ETAL

WILLIAMS EXPL
5 LONG MARY O

RE
AL

11290
10766

26

SOUTHWEST GAS
8 EMILY COMEGYS

12355

HILLARD O&G
1 LONG M O
8422

CONOCO
3 LONG MARIE O

12800

Geographic

M. O. Long

Fault

Fault

APL

ARCO O&G
1 LONG, M. COMEGYS

Geographic

L

E 1689

, Inc.

9-1857

ES